

How to avoid getting stung

- Do not swat or blow at curious bees
- Stay away from honey bee colonies
- Have swarms and colonies removed from your yard
- Check work area when using machinery such as mowers, edgers, blowers and other equipment.

Inspect for signs of honey bee colonies

- Look for bees passing in/out of an opening
- Listen for the hum or buzz of active bees
- Check at all levels, from the ground to under the eaves.

Eliminate colony sites

- Fill or cover holes and cracks
- Fill animal burrows
- Remove trash or debris such as car parts, tires, used appliances, boxes, stacks of crates or pots



If you find a bee swarm or colony:

- Treat it with caution, stay back
- Have it removed - don't wait
- Call beekeeper swarm list or pest control
- Do not attempt to remove the colony yourself

Pet and livestock safety

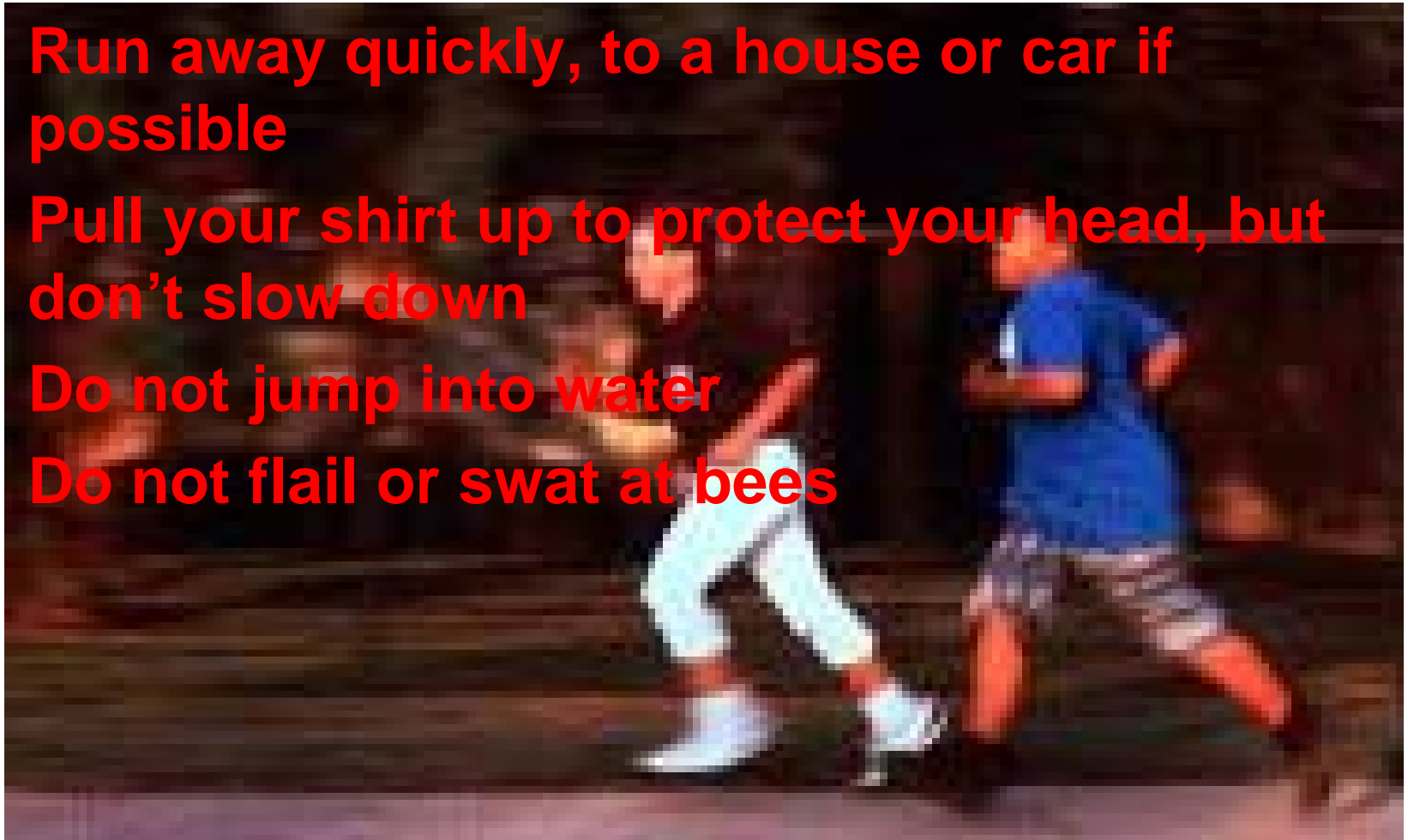
- Do not tie or pen animals near honey bee colonies, even if they appear tame
- Check pens regularly for colonies
- Keep dogs under control while hiking

Bees do not sting without being provoked, but they will defend themselves and their home- this photo shows reporters disturbing bees to show their worst response!



What to do if you are attacked by bees

- Run away quickly, to a house or car if possible
- Pull your shirt up to protect your head, but don't slow down
- Do not jump into water
- Do not flail or swat at bees



Some people have survived 1400 stings or more, and others have died from 1 sting.

Seek medical attention if:

- You have been stung more than 15 times
- You have symptoms other than local pain or swelling
- You suspect you may be allergic to bee stings

If you are stung

- Remove stingers by scraping them out with your fingernail, credit card or dull knife.
- Do not try to pull them out with your fingers or tweezers, this squeezes more venom in.



Ten things to remember:

- Stay away from honey bee colonies
- Expect honey bees to behave defensively
- If you are attacked, RUN AWAY
- Call 911 for emergency help
- Seek medical attention if allergic to bee stings, if you are feeling ill or if you get more than 15 stings.
- Check your surroundings for evidence of bee colonies
- Bee proof your property
- Consult experts for swarm/colony removal
- Check area for colonies before using landscape or heavy equipment
- Plan ahead- know what to do if attacked.